

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Final Rejection dated May 27, 2003, the Advisory Office action dated January 16, 2004, and the Advisory Action dated May 20, 2004, and is being submitted in response to the Office Communication dated July 2, 2004, indicating that claims 41-43 were improperly presented in the listing of claims.

Claims 30-39, 41-56, and 58-71 are currently pending in the present application. After entry of this amendment, claims 30-35, 37-39, 45-49, 51-56, 58-59, and 61-73 will be pending in the application. Claims 36, 41-44, 50, and 60 are cancelled by entry of this amendment. Claims 30, 39, 48, 56, 64 and 65 have been amended and new claims 72-73 have been added.

Response to Office Communication Dated July 2, 2004

In response to the Office Communication dated July 2, 2004, indicating that claims 41-43 were improperly presented in the listing of claims in the Third Response to the Final Rejection that arrived at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 14, 2004, the applicant has canceled claims 41-43. New claims 72-73 have been added. New claim 72 is identical to the latest correct version of claim 41, as presented in the amendment filed on March 31, 1999. New claim 73 is identical to the latest correct version of claim 43, as presented in the amendment filed on August 12, 1999. It is considered that these amendments address and overcome the issues raised in the Office Communication dated July 2, 2004.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that claims 36, 44, 50, 60, 64, and 65 are objected to. The Examiner has stated that claims 46, 44, 60, and 64-65 are free of prior art. Claim 50 was objected to in the listing of claims found in the Office Action Summary of May 27, 2003, and in the Advisory Action of January 16, 2004. Claim 50 was not rejected in the Final rejection, or the Advisory Action. Therefore, for this reasons, Applicant believes claim 50 is also directed to allowable subject matter.

In response to the Examiner's position, Applicant has canceled claims 36, 44, 50 and 60. The applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim 36 into independent claim 30 to render claim 30 allowable. The applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim 44 into claim 39 to render claim 39 allowable. The applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim

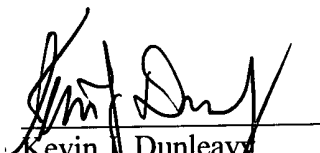
50 into claim 48 to render claim 48 allowable. The applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim 60 into claim 56 to render claim 56 allowable. Applicant has additionally incorporated the subject material of independent claims 39 and 56 into dependent claims 64 and 65 creating two additional allowable independent claims 64 and 65, based on the examiner's indication that dependent claims 64-65 were allowable.

Applicant believes that all remaining pending claims 30-35, 37-39, 45-49, 51-56, 58, 59, 61-73 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,


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